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04th April 2024

Deputy Costello  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 11643/24: To ask the Minister for Health the position for an update in relation to the HSE led Implementation Group considering the Joint Committee on Health Report on the proposed legislative recommendations in the Marie O'Shea report; how many times have the Group met since being established; who are the members of the Group; to identify the ten work-streams identified by the Group; when the draft implementation action plan is likely to be finalised; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Costello,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position on the various areas and issues you raised.

A National Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) Service Improvement Group has been established. The purpose/function of the Group is to oversee and support the implementation of the operational recommendations arising from the O'Shea Review and the separate Review of the Safety and Management of Termination of Pregnancy Services, as provided under Section 11 of the Act. The O'Shea report proposals recommending legislative changes have been referred to the Joint Committee on Health for consideration and are not within the scope or remit of the TOP Service Improvement Group.

The TOP Service Improvement Group have had two meetings to date. Ten work-streams have been established and 12 sub-group meetings have taken place to date. A programme of work for each of the ten work-streams has been identified and will be kept under review. The work-streams are as follows:


- Work-stream 1 – HSE Workplace Policies (Conscientious Objection & Conscientious Provision)
- Work-stream 2 – Early Pregnancy Ultrasound
- Work-stream 3 – Management Pathways – Section 12
- Work-stream 4 – Surgical TOP and MVA
- Work-stream 5 – Leadership Models and Health Systems - Role of the MDT
- Work-stream 6 – Prenatal Screening
- Work-stream 7 – Fetal Medicine
- Work-stream 8 – Audit and Data Collection
- Work-stream 9 – Education and Training
- Work-stream 10 – Maternal Health and Section 9

With regard to your query on the membership of the TOP Service Improvement group, as you will see from the table below, the membership is broad and comprises a variety of health and allied healthcare professionals with represented specialisms including: Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Clinical Genetics, Palliative Care, Neonatology, Psychiatry, Midwifery, General Practice, Medical Social Work and Bereavement care. Service users and support/advocacy groups are also represented on the membership of the Group.

<b>National Women and Infants Health Programme NWIHP</b>
K MC GRANE
A MULLALLY
C MURPHY
A DUNNE
D O'DONNELL
<b>Service User/advocacy Groups</b>
A LYNCH
ADDITIONAL TBC
<b>Obstetrics</b>
J MORRISON
D HAYES RYAN
K O'DONOGHUE
K FLOOD
<b>Neonatology</b>
C O'DONNELL
<b>Clinical Genetics</b>
E Mc CANN
<b>Pathology</b>
B FITZGERALD
<b>Nursing &amp; Midwifery</b>
F HANRAHAN
R COTTER
H HUGHES
L COOKE
<b>Medical Social Work</b>
S LOPEZ
<b>General Practice</b>
C Mc CARTHY
L CULLEN
C HENCHION (IFPA)
<b>HSE Contracts Office</b>
T KENNEDY
<b>Psychiatry</b>
TBC

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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**Davinia O'Donnell, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**